

## SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SPINAL SURGERY

## ABSTRACT

5           Disclosed herein are methods and devices for distracting adjacent vertebrae  
during surgical procedures for implanting spinal prostheses. In an exemplary  
embodiment, a distractor is disclosed that maintains the empty space between adjacent  
vertebrae following a discectomy, and that can removably mate with other surgical  
instruments, such as, for example, a filler bar, an implanting tool, or a funnel. In other  
10           embodiments of the present invention a distractor is disclosed having various features to  
assist in implanting a spinal prosthesis, such as, for example, an angled distal end and/or  
an expandable paddle. In another embodiment of the present invention, an articulating  
inserter is disclosed. Moreover, various implants and funnels are also disclosed herein.